

# *Protecting Our National Treasures*

*A New Era in America's Conservation Legacy*

*A Report to the President and the Vice President*

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*In Cooperation with:  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of Commerce  
Department of Defense  
Department of Energy  
Department of Transportation*

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## *Letter from Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman*

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Mr. President and Mr. Vice President:

The achievements documented in this report clearly show that you and your administration have pioneered a new era in America's conservation legacy. Your Administration's emphasis on voluntary partnerships with private landholders and preservation of regionally unique properties has achieved significant conservation results and will continue to grow in importance. This new direction will be as important to environmental protection in the year 2000 as preserving vast western vistas was in the early part of the century and cleaning polluted waterways has been in the last thirty years.

Your stewardship of our natural heritage has enhanced environmental protections on more than 141 million acres of land and thousands of new conservation partnerships with landowners. These acres include additions to national parks, monuments and wilderness areas; additions to national forests, refuges and public lands under conservation; regional ecosystem initiatives; partnerships with private landowners and organizations; and protection of the marine environment.

The American people have always cherished the majesty of our land, whether it be a spectacular wonder like the geysers of Yellowstone, or the solace found in the open spaces of our neighborhood parks, mountains, rivers and fields. These are the landscapes we see as we walk to school and drive to work. They are the fields we tend and plow, the lakes where our children learn to fish, the parks we visit on class trips. By protecting these places and by encouraging conservation agreements with private landowners and local governments, you have helped make our towns' landscapes greener, healthier and more enjoyable for residents and visitors.

Moving into the 21st century, you have had the vision to realize that it is our responsibility to safeguard our children's quality of life by protecting our natural heritage and our natural systems. Your Clean Water Action Plan will speed the restoration of the nation's precious waterways and fulfill the original goal of the Clean Water Act: fishable and swimmable water for every American.

Your Administration has had the foresight to protect many of our valued national treasures before it was too late. As a nation, we are all enriched by these actions.



**BRUCE BABBITT**  
Secretary of the Interior



**DAN GLICKMAN**  
Secretary of Agriculture

# Summary

## A NEW ERA IN AMERICA'S CONSERVATION LEGACY

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*"When we maintain our national parks, nourish our wildlife refuges, protect our water, and preserve places like the Everglades, we are standing up for our values and for our future, and that is something that all Americans can be proud of. God created these places, but it is up to us to care for them. Now we are and we're doing it the right way, by working together."*

—President Clinton  
Radio Address of the President to the Nation  
October 12, 1996

As President, Theodore Roosevelt oversaw the beginnings of the American conservation movement. He saw the great landscapes of the West and preserved them as national parks and monuments. He traced a line around fragile wetlands and set them aside, creating the National Wildlife Refuge System. He also began the United States Forest Service.

Today, President Clinton continues Roosevelt's legacy by protecting uniquely American landscapes such as the California desert and southern Utah red rock country. Equally important, President Clinton is pioneering a new era of American conservation that is as innovative in our modern world as Roosevelt's agenda was in the early 20th century.

This report chronicles the progress made in preserving our nation's natural heritage during the first four years of the Clinton Administration. Although still critically important, it shows very clearly that conservation is not just about creating showcase parks and refuges anymore. Very often, it is about protecting the natural resources we find closer to home.

Our conservation legacy was built around federal preservation of our national lands. Now, Americans are working together to expand that original notion to include conservation as a partnership with citizens. Outside of Alaska, 70 percent of our nation is private lands. Saving our natural heritage, as well as ensuring the health and safety of our air and water requires a shared responsibility between government and private landowners. Under the new era of American conservation, families and farmers, corporate CEO's and churches are all working voluntarily with the government to preserve what we have for future generations.

From coast to coast, Americans are working in unprecedented numbers in these new cooperative programs. Extraordinary landscapes have been added to the national trust. And millions of acres of private lands are being managed with a new care and stewardship. As a result, since President Clinton took office roughly 141,000,000 additional acres are being actively managed to conserve our nation's fragile resources.

Some examples of the dramatic commitment to private lands include: a 100 percent increase in the acres protected under the Fish and Wildlife Services Partners in Wildlife

program since 1992. Twenty-three million acres of fragile cropland were restored under the Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program. A 14-fold increase in the acreage included in Habitat Conservation Plans (from 414,000 to 5.8 million acres) since 1992, with approximately 7.3 million more acres due in the program by December 1998.

All of this is in addition to the substantial acreage set aside as parks, refuges, monuments and wilderness areas. Over 100 unique places in 35 states are slated for greater protection through a \$699 million increase in land acquisition funding for fiscal year 1998. Although funds for completing these acquisitions have already been appropriated for FY 1998, Congress has yet to agree to release these funds.

In addition to protecting new areas, such as the California Desert and Headwaters Forest, our legacy depends upon maintaining and restoring the existing parks, refuges, forests and other national treasures that all Americans now own. The Forest Service is completing negotiations to stop the development of the New World Mine that would threaten Yellowstone National Park. Everglades restoration proceeds because of the unprecedented cooperation between federal and Florida agencies. Restoration of historic buildings, trails, roads and other facilities in our parks is the focus of the National Park Service and other agencies.

What does this mix of traditional preservation and new, voluntary partnerships really look like on the landscape? Consider the following panorama, as we sweep across the country from east to west, sunrise to sunset:

Dawn's early light first touches America on the granite face of Acadia National Park. Rangers there (as on public lands and refuges across the nation) can now turn visitor's fees directly into improving its trails, campsites, tours, and fisheries instead of sending that money back to Washington, D.C.

Dawn then reaches dozens of newly protected lands in the East: Boston Harbor Islands, a boat ride for 500,000 Bostonians, and Sterling Forest, less than an hour from Manhattan; National Heritage Corridors, where citizens are working together to conserve cultural resources from Albany to Buffalo and down the Hudson River Valley, all of them telling how America was settled.

In the Catskill Mountains, farmers apply special soil conservation practices on their land, protecting the safety of New York City's water supply and avoiding a multibillion dollar investment for additional water treatment facilities.

Along the Atlantic Coast, the sun shines on the newly protected tidal wetlands of Delaware Bay and protected barrier islands in the Carolinas. Whale watching has become a growth industry.

As the nation's capital awakens, bald eagles, a species once critically endangered and now rapidly recovering, leave their nests to fish the waters of the Potomac.

Further south, morning spreads over the Everglades where we have begun to reengineer dikes and canals creating wetland filters, improving water quality and mimicking natural flows so that spoonbills, herons, and nesting wood storks can once again thrive and the great fishery of Florida Bay can be restored.

Continued

By midmorning in the Appalachians, classrooms and communities use grants from the Clean Streams Initiative to return orange, acidic rivers back to life. Across the South, landowners, soldiers and timber companies are working with new incentives to manage woodlots for the benefit of endangered woodpeckers.

Throughout the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys, farmers are applying conservation measures to their land that rebuilds soil fertility, improves water quality in nearby lakes and streams, increases hunting and fishing opportunities, and also raises their crop yields and profits.

By late morning, on the Great Lakes watershed, the Cuyahoga River not only ceases to burn, but it supports a world class walleye fishery. Further west, Lake Superior is again filled with lake trout.

In Michigan and Wisconsin, utilities and local communities work with the federal government to restore the integrity of rivers, creating new blue ribbon trout streams. In the Dakotas, record numbers of waterfowl flock to conserved "Prairie Potholes" and on the Kansas Tall Grass Prairie the National Park Trust is conserving not only native grasses, but a way of life.

In the Mississippi Delta, farmers are restoring wetlands on marginal cropland under federal easements at an unprecedented rate.

Further west in the Rockies, the reintroduction of wolves is helping restore Yellowstone's wild nature, and families are planning their summer trips in the newly created wilderness in Colorado.

And further south, the sandstone walls of our new Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument reflect that sunlight in terra cotta splendor.

Afternoon will cast deep shadows across the Grand Canyon, where scientifically designed floods have pumped life back into the habitat of the Colorado River. Newly released California condors now soar on thermal air currents, and careful regulation of air tours will allow visitors to hear, perhaps, the rush of condor wings.

On the New Mexico/Arizona border, a group of ranchers meet with federal and state officials, continuing a unique partnership to restore overgrazed rangeland, renewing its ability to support commercial livestock production and protect the great diversity of plant and animal life.

Ranchers and backpackers, working through new Resource Advisory Councils, are working together to replenish riparian corridors and upland habitat across the West.

Over the centuries, the sun and the wind sculpted and molded the California desert into one of the great natural wonders of the world; we worked with leaders in Congress to protect it as the largest park, preserve and wilderness in the lower 48 states.

In California, where Mark Twain once observed "whiskey's for drinkin' and water's for fightin'," farmers and cities are now using water more efficiently, leaving more fresh water in the stream, and looking forward to the day when fishermen can once again catch salmon in San Francisco Bay.

Overlooking that Bay, soldiers of the Presidio have lowered their flags and helped turn their noble post into a superb urban park.



As the sun descends on the Pacific, we are negotiating to protect one of the last great groves of ancient coastal redwoods. The model for this restorative agreement comes from the Northwest Forest Plan, where loggers and foresters protect salmon with stream side buffers and keep enough integrated forest mosaics to bring back spotted owls throughout the old growth ecosystem.

Finally, just before the sun dips below the horizon, it falls on Alaska, where we are helping Prince William Sound recover from the environmental nightmare of the Exxon Valdez oil spill by acquiring fragile lands on the Kodiak archipelago for the salmon, grizzly and bald eagles. In Hawaii, dozens of strikingly beautiful native plants are being protected before they disappear forever.

From sea to shining sea, to spacious skies once again alive with bald eagles, condors, falcons and waterfowl, from majestic, purple mountains where wolves and bears roam, across plains fruited by enriched soil and diverse plants, thousands are working together to restore our beautiful nation.

It is a vision that would make Theodore Roosevelt proud.

# *Land and Water Stewardship*

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<b>NEW NATIONAL PARK, MONUMENT AND WILDERNESS LANDS</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
California Desert Protection Act of 1994	6,733,360
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument	1,700,000
Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993	773,000
National Park Service Land Protection	118,034
Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996	12,601
<b>NEW CONSERVATION IN NATIONAL FORESTS, REFUGES AND PUBLIC LANDS</b>	
Additional National Forest System Land Purchased	243,996
National Wildlife Refuges and Refuge Additions	1,349,253
Lands Added to Waterfowl Production Areas	463,218
Snake River/Birds of Prey National Conservation Area	482,640
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	1,000,000
National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Designation	300 river miles*
<b>REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM INITIATIVES</b>	
Pacific Northwest: Old Growth Forest/Riparian Reserves	10,058,300
Everglades Ecosystem Restoration	126,000
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Ecosystem Restoration	410,000
<b>PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS AND ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
Partners for Fish and Wildlife/Private Landowner Assistance	472,000
	1,410 river miles*
Habitat Conservation Plans and Safe Harbor Agreements	5,354,885
	203 River miles*
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	815,394
Land Improvement Cooperative Agreements with Private Landowners	85,900,000
Wetlands Reserve Program Enrolled Wetlands and Lands	550,000
National Heritage Areas (11 areas since 1992)	
Conservation Reserve Program	23,000,000
Conservation Buffer Initiative	150,000 miles*
<b>PROTECTING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT</b>	
Additions to National Marine Sanctuaries	2,230,154
Additions to National Estuarine Research Reserves	114,047
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141,906,882</b>

\*NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL



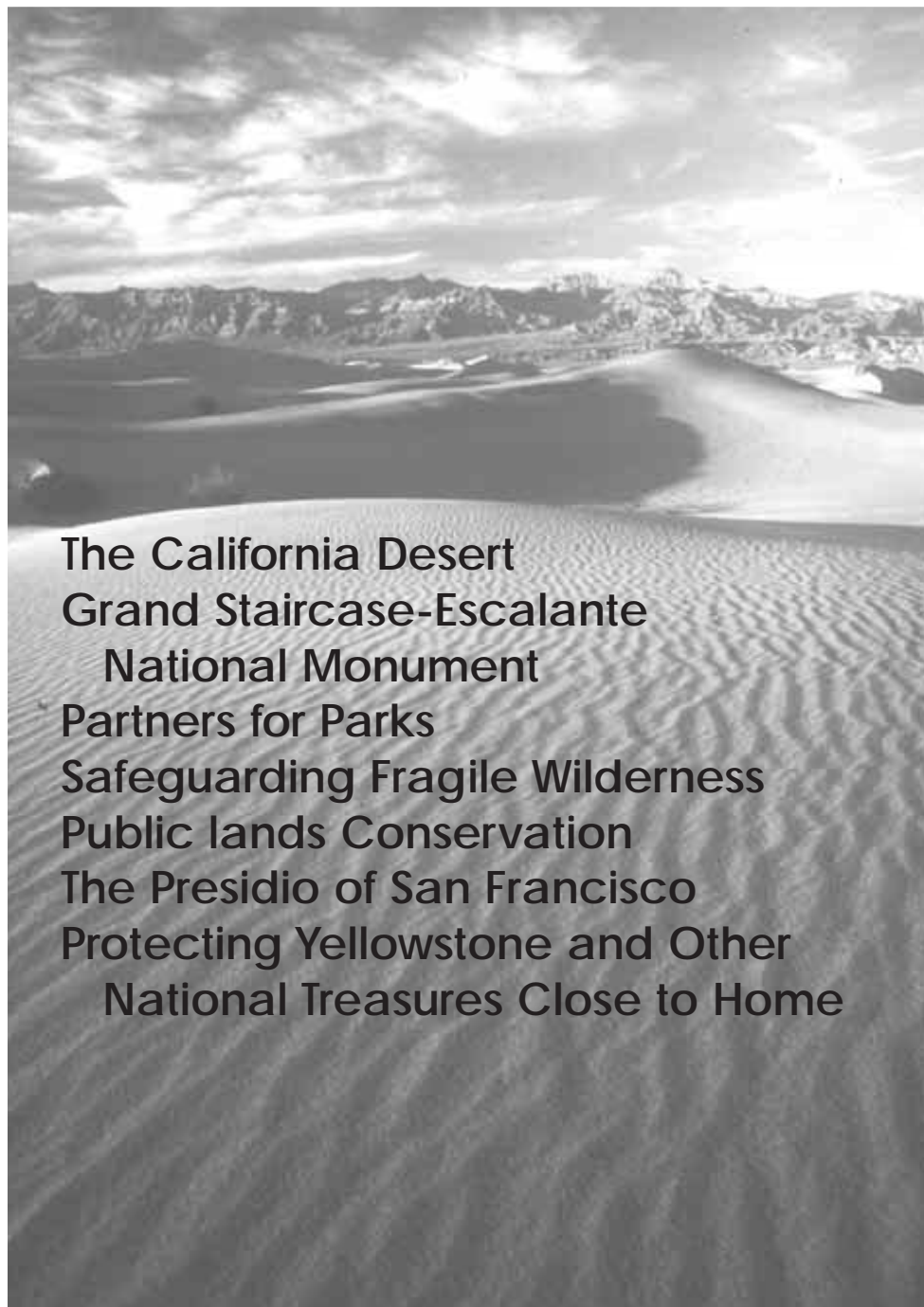
# *The Clinton Administration Stewardship Index*

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Rank in size of parks and wilderness in lower 48 states, created by California Desert Protection Act: 1  
Budget to produce 1997 endangered humans story "Titanic" in millions of dollars: 200  
Budget to produce 1997 Endangered Species Act, in millions of dollars: 91  
Cost of 1997 pack of Wrigley's spearmint gum, in cents: 35  
Cost to average American in 1997 to carry out Endangered Species Act, in cents : 33  
Amount Americans spent on their pets last year, in million of dollars: 20,000  
Amount Americans spent under Clinton Administration's wolf reintroduction, in millions of dollars: 3  
Number of additional visitors coming to Yellowstone last year, strictly because of wolves: 10,000  
Wolf pups born wild and free in Yellowstone: 90  
Percentage of Americans who believe protection for endangered species has gone "too far:" 16  
Percentage who believe protection has gone "not far enough:" 52  
Critics' 1993 prediction of President's Northwest Forest Plan's net impact on Oregon jobs: -100,000  
Actual net change in Oregon jobs after 2 years impact by President's Forest Plan: +100,000  
Of \$130 billion that Forest Service programs pump into GDP, percentage generated by recreation: 77  
Percentage generated by wildlife and fish: 10  
Percentage generated by timber sales: 2.7  
Percentage of America's cold water fisheries whose sources lie in National Forests: 33  
Number of greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*) believed alive in 1960s: 0  
Number in Colorado (now as state fish) restored under the Endangered Species Act by 1996: +70,000  
Duck population nationwide during late 1980s, in millions: 56  
Duck population under Clinton Administration in 1997, in millions: 92  
Habitat acres restored under Administration's North American Waterfowl Plan, in millions: 2.5  
Percentage increase since late 1980s: 62  
Voluntary Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) for private land under all previous Administrations: 14  
Voluntary HCPs implemented by Clinton Administration in first four years: 225  
Total acreage Clinton Administration plans have protected, in millions: 5.8  
Ratio of private land voluntarily protected under Clinton HCP incentives to all previous Administrations: 14:1  
Time Clinton Administration spends carefully reviewing wetland permits, in days: 21  
Percentage cut in processing time from previous administration: 38  
Hours of red tape Administration cut for those seeking to comply with EPA's laws, in millions: 15  
Tons of soil Clinton Administration protects each year from erosion, in billions: 1  
Width, in dump trucks, required to carry that soil in solid convoy stretching from New York to L.A.: 95  
Ratio of annual Superfund sites cleaned by Administration in 5 years to sites cleaned in previous  
3 terms (12 years): 2:1  
Times Cleveland's polluted Cuyahoga River caught fire in 1960s: 2  
Dollars leveraged by Clinton Administration to restore Cleveland watershed, in millions: 3.2  
Rank of Cleveland's Cuyahoga and Lake Erie among global walleye fisheries today: 1  
Aquatic life in acid mine damaged Appalachian streams: 0  
Pilot projects under Clinton Administration programs to restore 180 miles of those streams: 40  
Cents on every dollar paid by visitors to enter park, refuge or forest in 1980s that actually stayed there: 0  
Cents on every new dollar paid under Administration's 1997 entrance fee plan that will stay there: 80  
Amount of rainfall for Noah's Flood in Genesis, in days and nights: 40  
Amount of water flow for restorative flood in Grand Canyon, in thousands of cubic feet per second: 45

# *Enhancing our National Treasures*

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The California Desert  
Grand Staircase-Escalante  
National Monument  
Partners for Parks  
Safeguarding Fragile Wilderness  
Public lands Conservation  
The Presidio of San Francisco  
Protecting Yellowstone and Other  
National Treasures Close to Home

# *Appendix*

# The California Desert

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President Clinton signed the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, setting aside 6.6 million acres of spectacular desert landscapes for the enjoyment of all Americans.

**Death Valley National Park** is a place of subtle beauty and rich cultural history. Despite its name, Death Valley provides native habitat to more than 900 species of plants and 400 species of animals. The park also includes the tallest sand dunes in California as well as thousands of archeological and cultural sites. The diversity of the **Mojave National Preserve** includes the largest forest of Joshua trees in the world, evidence of extensive volcanic activity, including the 70 square mile Cima Dome, and more than 30 extinct volcanic cones. The preserve protects the fragile habitat of the desert tor-

toise, vast open spaces, and historic mining scenes. The Mojave and Colorado Deserts are two geologically distinct deserts distinguished primarily by elevation. Their strikingly different plant and animal life come together at **Joshua Tree National Park**.

The 1994 California Desert Protection Act accomplished four major land conservation goals which had been sought for several decades:

- *Expansion and protection as statutory wilderness of **Death Valley National Park**, with 1.4 million acres added to the area; redesignation from national monument to national park; and designation of 3.1 million wilderness acres from both the new park and old monument.*
- *Creation of the 1.4 million acre **Mojave National Preserve**, and designation of 695 thousand wilderness acres.*
- *Expansion, redesignation and protection as statutory wilderness of **Joshua Tree National Park**, with 230,000 acres added to the area; redesignation from national monument to national park; and designation of 131,000 wilderness acres.*
- *Designation of 69 desert sites as **wilderness areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management**, totaling 3.6 million acres.*

# *Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument*



President Clinton designated the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by proclamation in September 1996, to ensure that the spectacular scenery and the geological, scientific, biological and historical values will be preserved for future generations. Beginning nearly a mile beneath the surrounding land, the Grand Staircase rises 5,500 feet straight up to the rim of Bryce Canyon in an unbroken series of great cliffs and plateaus. Cutting into the surface of the arid landscape, the rock has been worn away by millennia of erosion to reveal narrow, steep-walled canyons, stone arches and cliffs of brilliant colors, such as the White Cliffs and the Vermillion Cliffs. Dinosaurs once roamed the area of the monu-

ment, where the fossils of these amazing creatures now abound. The Monument is home to a rich variety of vegetation, with an abundance of plants unique to the area.

Within the last year the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun managing this unique and inspiring natural resource and expects a draft comprehensive management plan to be issued for public comment in November 1998. Highlights of the year include:

- *Initiated a unique collaborative planning process in cooperation with the State of Utah and county governments.*
- *Permitted over thirty research projects in archeology, biology, botany, geology and paleontology for the upcoming field season.*
- *Convened a science symposium (November 1997) which brought together researchers from many disciplines with expertise in the Monument's resources including among others geology and paleontology, botany, archeology, and wildlife biology.*



# Partners for Parks

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Dominated by prairie grasses ten feet tall, the 11,000 acre **Tall Grass Prairie and Preserve** is the Clinton Administration's unique new addition to the National Park System. Dozens of plant and animal species found in the region are specially adapted to the unique qualities of the tall grass ecosystem. Before this park was established, only 3,000 acres of tall grass prairie were protected, and only in small parcels. This immensely significant natural resource will be protected through a public-private partnership in which the federal government owns only 180 acres.

Similarly, 17,000 acres of New York State's **Sterling Forest**, an eastern forest which helps protect the watershed of the New York City metropolitan area, will remain under local protection in part because of the Administration's commitment to partnerships with states and conservation organizations.

- *President Clinton also signed into law the **Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area** which includes a 30-island system of lands protected by a State Park, the City of Boston, the U.S. Coast Guard, and private non-profit land managing agencies.*
- *The Administration has worked with Congress to establish eleven new **Heritage Areas** as places where historic resources, cultural traditions, and the landscape itself tell the story of how local citizens and the land have interacted through time. No new federal land is acquired.*
- *The **New Bedford Whaling District in Massachusetts, the Nicodemus National Historic Site in Kansas, and the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in Oklahoma** were created. Each preserves important chapters of American history.*

# Safeguarding Fragile Wilderness



A wilderness designation gives extraordinary levels of protection so that truly wild places can remain undeveloped and retain their primeval character. President Clinton added to our nation's protected wilderness when he signed the 1993 Colorado Wilderness Act. The Act resulted in a 23 percent increase in the acreage of national forest wilderness in Colorado. Hiking, hunt-

ing, camping, and fishing are encouraged in wilderness areas, but motor vehicles, permanent roads, timber harvest and mechanized equipment are prohibited. In addition to wilderness designations, the Forest Service manages lands for a variety of recreation and conservation purposes.

- ***The Colorado Wilderness Act** added 600,000 acres to the 2.6 million acres of wilderness that already existed in Colorado. Another 173,000 acres were designated for special protection as recreation or natural areas.*



# Public Lands Conservation

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Many kinds of special places need protection. Our national parks and wilderness areas are places America knows best. However, the millions of acres of other public lands and national forests also contain resources with special values. Federal and local governments can work together to protect and manage these special designation areas.

In February 1998, the U.S. Forest Service released for public comment two historic proposed rules affecting road building in America's national forests. One rule asks for public comment on how the Forest Service should change procedures it uses in determining when and how roads are built in the future.

During the development of this long

term roads policy the Forest Service proposed an 18 month "time out" on all road building in certain unroaded areas of national forests. The comment period on this proposal expired at the end of March and generated 200,000 public comments, illustrating the immense public interest in this issue.

- *More than 3,300 organizations joined with the Forest Service last year to enhance wildlife and fisheries habitat, and more than 2,000 organizations worked to improve recreation areas, build trails, and protect wilderness resources.*
- *In 1997, BLM developed nearly 700 new riparian-wetland projects and applied intensive management to over 800 miles of riparian lands and more than 11,500 acres of wetlands. In addition, the agency completed over 450 partnership projects to improve habitat for fish, wildlife and plants on more than 300,000 acres and 500 miles of streams and provided special management for some 300 threatened and endangered species.*
- *The BLM has designated more than a million acres as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, for their unique historic, cultural, wildlife, or scenic values. The BLM intends to designate more than one million acres of these areas in 1998. Special management attention is needed to protect or prevent damage to these important sites, for example:*
- *The **Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area** covers nearly a half million acres, providing hunting and feeding areas for the largest concentration of nesting raptors in North America, including the prairie falcon and golden eagle.*
- ***Ten Wild and Scenic Rivers** were designated in the last five years, protecting 290 river miles.*

# *The Presidio of San Francisco*

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The year was 1776. Even as the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia, a handful of Spanish soldiers 3,000 miles to the west raised their nation's flag above the **Presidio of San Francisco**, a tiny adobe fort overlooking the famed Golden Gate. The post enjoyed an uninterrupted military history under the flags of three different nations—Spain, Mexico, and the United States—until 1994, when the Presidio was transferred by the U.S. Army to the National Park Service.

In 1996, President Clinton fought successfully for legislation to create the Presidio Trust. Appointed by the President, the Trust's Board of Directors is working hard to build the innovative public-private partnerships necessary to minimize the Presidio's operational costs while preserving its rich history and character. The Trust will join the National Park Service in ensuring the preservation of this unique national park for this and future generations.

- *Of the Presidio's 1,480 acres, 780 are in open space, from wild coastal bluffs to forested ridges, offering outstanding waterfront recreation. Three hundred acres are forested and 145 acres are in native vegetation. Lobos Creek is the last free-flowing fresh water stream in San Francisco.*
- *Eleven rare plants are found in the Presidio, including the Marin Dwarf Flax, San Francisco Owls Clover, and the last known plant of its kind, the Raven Manzanita.*
- *The Presidio boasts 474 historic structures among its 811 buildings.*
- *The future of the Presidio — that of a great urban national park, a center for research and learning, and a model of sustainability — has begun to emerge already. It is now the home of over 50 park partners dedicated to addressing environmental, social, and cultural challenges.*

# Protecting Yellowstone and Other National Treasures Close to Home



President Clinton protected one of America's most cherished treasures, Yellowstone National Park, by preventing the establishment of a mine that could have critically injured the park's fragile ecosystem. By purchasing the property slated for the proposed New World Mine, the President saved the park's wonders for the enjoyment of future generations. In October 1997 the President signed the legislation that includes the funding needed to protect Yellowstone.

In February, the Administration reached an historic agreement to protect the last privately-held grove

of ancient redwoods in Northern California. The Headwaters Forest, where trees as old as 2,000 years reach heights of up to 300 feet, will be saved from logging and will continue to provide habitat for many threatened and endangered species, including the marbled murrelet and the Coho salmon.

The same legislation which provided funds for the protection of Yellowstone and Headwaters is being used to purchase and enhance parks and other public lands across the country. Over 100 unique places in 35 states are slated for protection and acquisition from willing sellers because of the President's successful negotiations on the 1998 Balanced Budget Agreement to include \$699 million in a one time funding for priority federal land acquisitions. Many Americans will find that these newly protected national treasures are near their own neighborhoods:

- Completion of the **Appalachian Trail**, America's most famous footpath, which extends 2,157 miles from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia. A total of \$15.1 million will be provided to buy the last remaining parcels of private land on the trail, which are located primarily in Virginia, Maryland, Maine and Vermont.
- **Civil War Battlefields Protected.** More than 1,218 acres protected at six Civil War battlefields: Antietam National Battlefield and Monacacy National Battlefield in Maryland, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Virginia, Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, Stones River National Battlefield in Tennessee, and Pecos National Historical Park in New Mexico for a total of \$11.1 million.
- Completion of the acquisition for the **55 mile Backbone Trail in Santa Monica National Recreation Area** for \$5.51 million.
- Completion of lands purchase in the **Pinhook Swamp of Florida**. This will protect a vital wildlife corridor between the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Osecola National Forest.

# *Restoring Injured Ecosystems*

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Restoring the Everglades  
The President's Northwest Forest Plan  
Historic Bay-Delta Water Accord in  
California  
Prince William Sound and the Kodiak  
Archipelago  
Clean Streams Initiative  
Restoring the Grand Canyon  
Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum

# Restoring the Everglades

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About 50 years ago, the Federal Government undertook a massive replumbing of the world's greatest wetland wilderness, the Everglades, to address growing agricultural and urban demands for water and flood protection. About 2000 miles of canals and levees diverted the water flow to farms and cities, while the historic expanse of the River of Grass was reduced by half. This replumbing of South Florida and associated activities produced unintended dire consequences for the environment and economy of the 18,000 square mile region.

In 1993, the restoration of the Everglades was mired in litigation between the Federal government and the State of Florida. Today, in full partnership with the State, the Clinton Administration is engaged in the most ambitious environmental restoration plan in history. The Administration's accomplishments include:

- *Securing over \$700 million in Federal funding since 1993 for **Everglades restoration activities**, including budget increases for science, land and water management projects, and other Federal programs.*
- ***Committing to a 50/50 cost-share with the State of Florida for restoration activities** and asking Florida's sugarcane industry to contribute its fair share to restoration.*
- *Securing \$200 million to acquire critical lands for restoration purposes, including water storage, water supply, and improved water quality, in the eastern buffer area between the Everglades and urban areas and in the Everglades Agricultural Area.*
- *Accelerating and completing water supply and control projects which will **restore natural flows to the southern Everglades**, including Everglades National Park and Florida Bay, as well as the restoration of the Kissimee River and the headwaters to the Everglades.*
- *Committing to innovative and flexible restoration approaches, including a coordinated wetlands protection plan and multi-species recovery plan covering the area's 68 species on the federal Endangered Species list.*

The acquisition of critical lands and acceleration of projects are well underway. For example, in December 1997, the Administration announced an agreement in concept to purchase 50,000 acres of land in the Everglades Agricultural area.



# *The President's Northwest Forest Plan*



When President Clinton and Vice President Gore were sworn into office in January 1993, the Pacific Northwest and northern California were in turmoil over use of the region's federal forest lands. The federal court had shut down logging operations by banning timber harvest from federal lands in the region of the spotted owl. The previous administration had failed to provide necessary protections under the Endangered Species Act, the National Forest Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The President's Northwest Forest Plan, adopted in April 1994, changed all of

that. The Plan is science-based, legal, and balanced to provide for both economic opportunity and protection of the environment. In June 1994, just two months after the Plan's Record of Decision was adopted, the federal court injunctions banning timber harvest from federal lands were dropped. The Forest Plan established a blueprint for addressing both human and environmental needs in the 24 million acres within the range of the northern spotted owl:

- **Protection for Old-Growth Forests:** 7,430,800 acres of Reserves protect old-growth forests and provide habitat for species that depend on those forests, representing 30 percent of the federal land within the range of the northern spotted owl.
- **Protection for Riparian Areas:** 2,627,500 acres of riparian reserves protect aquatic resources and provide habitat for plants, anadromous fish and numerous other species. Riparian reserves under the Forest Plan represent 11 percent of the federal lands within the range of the northern spotted owl.
- **Species Protection:** The Northwest Forest Plan is designed to maintain the viability of 1120 plant and animal species associated with late successional forests.
- **Economic Assistance:** To assist with economic adjustment, the President's Forest Plan included a five-year, \$1.2 billion economic assistance package. More than \$793 million in grants and loans were distributed and more than 100 communities were assisted during Fiscal Years 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997. Over 2,000 watershed restoration projects were contracted during those years.



# *Historic Bay-Delta Water Accord*



Decades of fighting over the use of California's largest and most precious fresh water supply came to an end in 1994 when the Clinton Administration signed a landmark agreement which meets the needs of agriculture, urban areas, and hundreds of species of fish and wildlife. The San Francisco Bay-Sacramento River/Delta, a 1,600 square mile treasure trove of fresh water in an arid state, had rapidly deteriorated under previous management efforts.

The Bay-Delta ecological system was seriously degraded by extensive diking, habitat modification, and water diversions. The habitat no longer sustainably supports native fish and wildlife,

leading to numerous endangered and threatened species, including delta smelt and chinook salmon.

The historic agreement leaves more fresh water in the estuary so fish and other wildlife will thrive. Cities, farmers and other concerned citizens joined with the state and federal governments under the California-Federal Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program to insure:

- *The Bay-Delta's 1600 square miles of river and bay will be restored as a healthy natural system.*
- *102 species of fish and countless other plants and animals will benefit from the improvement in water quality.*
- *22 million Californians who get their drinking water from the Bay-Delta will benefit from improved water quality, and farmers who depend on the Bay-Delta for irrigation will have a reliable source of water.*
- *President Clinton signed the Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement Act in 1996. The President requested full-funding of \$143.3 million in FY 98 and FY 99 for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta.*

# *Prince William Sound and the Kodiak Archipelago*

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In March 1989, the ***Exxon Valdez*** spilled more than 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound, killing over one hundred thousand seabirds and covering hundreds of miles of pristine coastline with oil. But in the wake of one of America's worst environmental disasters, the Clinton Administration spearheaded one of America's greatest conservation achievements in recent years: the permanent protection of more than 450,000 acres of old growth forests, sheltered bays and bountiful salmon streams in Alaska.

Working in partnership with Native Alaskan villages and the State of Alaska, the funds from the ***Exxon Valdez*** settlements were utilized to protect lands in the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, the Chugach National Forest and the Alaska state park system, with no impact on the federal budget. The newly-acquired lands will benefit Pacific salmon, bald eagle, sea otter, harlequin duck, marbled murrelet and Dolly Varden populations along with many other species. The lands will provide increased opportunities for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.

In this area in the last five and a half years, the Administration has:

- *Protected 453,000 acres of coastal habitat and forests.*
- *Reached agreements with private landowners to protect an additional 160,000 acres, for a total of 640,000 acres.*

# Clean Streams Initiative

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Acid drainage from abandoned coal mines continues to be the number one water problem in the Appalachian region, with pollution degrading more than 8,000 miles of streams so that plant and animal life cannot survive. Nationwide, about 12,000 miles of streams are polluted by contaminated mine runoff. The Clinton Administration created the **Clean Streams Initiative** to accelerate clean up of acid mine drainage.

From its modest beginnings in 1995, the **Clean Streams Initiative** has gained momentum through a groundswell of grassroots support and an ever-increasing network of project sponsors. By unifying the efforts of citizen groups, watershed organizations, mining companies, universities, and local, state, and federal government agencies, the massive problem of acid mine drainage is being attacked by a broad-based coalition.

This partnership-based approach is achieving tangible results as a successful model for watershed restoration and a key component of the President's Clean Water Action Plan:

- *In 1996 the Clinton Administration and Congress provided seed money for 13 Clean Streams Initiative projects in nine states to restore more than 180 miles of streams and rivers. Administration funding for additional projects was added in 1997, augmented by increased activity in related federal and state programs.*
- *Citizens and conservation groups are reporting improved water quality and restored fisheries in their streams for the first time since the early part of this century.*
- *Partner contributions are accelerating the pace of restoring life to polluted watersheds, with Interior Department funds being matched dollar-for-dollar by corporations, utilities, and other state and federal agencies. Students, businesses, and citizens are also providing major assistance through in-kind services. Projects now being planned could clean up an additional 600 miles of streams and rivers by the year 2000.*

# Restoring the Grand Canyon

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Since it was constructed, the Glen Canyon Dam has provided Westerners with critical water supply, flood control, recreation and hydro-electric power, but at significant cost to the natural environment of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. The Clinton Administration is changing that by making environmental restoration a larger part of managing water resources, while still fully acknowledging the important role water has in economic development.

On March 26, 1996, the Grand Canyon received the benefits of this new commitment to the environment. In a unique experiment hailed by scientists

and conservationists worldwide, a massive release of water from the Glen Canyon Dam began and ran for seven days, restoring the Colorado River as it runs through the Grand Canyon. The experiment was carefully set up to serve as a simulation of the regular seasonal flooding of the river, and with fascinating results: The river was loaded with sediments that, when re-deposited, created important habitat for fish. The river was also replenished with organic matter that will rejuvenate plant growth, providing habitat for animals. It was an unqualified success. Lessons learned from the 1996 experiment helped park managers capitalize on heavy sediment loads deposited as a result of monsoonal rains in the Fall of 1997. The sand washed in during the rains was reused to replenish beaches.

- *Beaches and fish and bird habitat, degraded since the high flows of the early 80s, have been replenished. The number of natural beaches for recreation was increased by one-third.*
- *Trout fishermen are reporting excellent catches.*
- *Bald eagles and peregrine falcons in the Grand Canyon appear to be prospering, and other bird species are returning.*

# Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum



President Clinton and Vice President Gore went to Lake Tahoe in July 1997 to craft a solution to the lake's degrading water quality. The pact that emerged is giving Lake Tahoe a fighting chance at survival.

The Federal Interagency Partnership Agreement formally committed all the federal partners to enhancing the environmental, economic and cultural value of the Tahoe region. The partnership will coordinate operations "...to protect the extraordinary natural, recreational and ecological resources of the Lake Tahoe Region and the economy that depends on them."

The Administration has committed to investing \$50 million in 36 projects. Some of the projects underway include:

- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will run a **backyard conservation initiative** — helping private landowners prevent soil erosion into the lake.
- The USDA Forest Service will develop a **watershed assessment** to help us better understand the root causes of stress on the Basin's ecosystem — of which the lake's fading clarity is one symptom. The Forest Service will also eliminate more than 100 miles of road, and restore the land to a more natural state. More than 95 percent of a designated prescribed burn has been accomplished.
- The Army Corps of Engineers will work with **private forest landowners**, so they, too, can help restore the natural health of the Basin. The Corps will also carry out a special effort at Trout Creek, the main tributary to the Upper Truckee River, which is the largest contributor of sediment to the lake.
- EPA will take the lead on lake water clarity — providing technical support, monitoring and funding for non-point source pollution control efforts — such as the use of vegetative buffers between the lake and the land to keep urban runoff and car pollution from harming the water. A new pipeline to pump wastewater effluent out of the Lake Tahoe basin will be partially funded by a \$7.1 million award in FY 1998.
- The Department of Interior will set up a geographic information system for Lake Tahoe to **monitor water quality and soil erosion**. DOI will also work on a number of items from conducting a geological survey, to drawing up digital maps of the lake, to looking into whether we can reintroduce the Lahontan cutthroat trout to the waters here.
- The Department of Transportation will help build a transit center which has been a local priority for almost a decade. DOT has delivered funds to include \$6 million runaway repairs at Reno-Tahoe Airport, the gateway for national visitors to Lake Tahoe, \$250,000 to enhance a master plan for erosion and stormwater controls on Tahoe roads and \$20,000 to improve the newly-introduced summer beach shuttle.



# *Giving Home Improvements to Fish & Wildlife*

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Wild Lands for Wildlife  
Giving Habitat a Good Defense  
Energizing Habitat Conservation  
Partnering for Habitat Conservation



# Wild Lands for Wildlife

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The National Wildlife Refuge System is America's national network of conservation lands and waters, protecting our rich fish and wildlife heritage. Today the System includes 513 refuges and more than 3,000 Waterfowl Production Areas, together spanning nearly 93 million acres. These lands support countless numbers of birds, mammals, plants and other wildlife and welcome more than 30 million Americans each year, who come to watch wildlife, learn about the natural world and engaged in traditional activities like hunting and fishing.

The Clinton Administration has added over 1.3 million acres to the National Wildlife Refuge System, continuing a legacy that began when President Theodore Roosevelt established the first Wildlife Refuge at Florida's Pelican Island.

The Clinton Administration has:

- *Established 28 new wildlife refuges, including Bald Knob NWR, Arkansas; Deep Fork NWR, Oklahoma; Midway Island NWR; the Ten Thousand Islands NWR, Florida; Key Cave NWR, Alabama; Black Bayou Lake NWR, Louisiana; Trinity River NWR, California; Big Branch Marsh NWR, Louisiana; and the San Diego NWR, California.*
- *Opened 45 refuges to fishing and 28 refuges to hunting. These programs have increased public enjoyment while continuing protection of fish and wildlife values.*
- *Recognized the need to strengthen the Refuge System capabilities by requesting a \$26 million, 12 percent increase in the annual operations and maintenance budget in FY 1999.*
- *Increased the size of several refuges, including Stillwater NWR in Nevada; the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR, New Jersey; the Mashpee NWR, Massachusetts; and the Hakalau Forest NWR in Hawaii.*
- *Helped forge the consensus on and signed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, which establishes conservation as the primary mission of the refuge system. The act also establishes wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, photography, environmental education, and interpretation as compatible wildlife-dependent uses.*

# *Giving Habitat a Good Defense*

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Safety buffer zones around major military installations have resulted in protection of some of the finest remaining examples of natural habitats and species. The extent of these lands is significant — the Department of Defense manages over 25 million acres of land, making the Department the third largest federal land management agency in the United States. These lands also offer some of the greatest opportunities for protection of sensitive species — for

200 different threatened and endangered species are known to occur on military lands. The Department of Defense must continue its primary mission of military readiness, but concurrently manages these natural areas for the protection and enhancement of valuable natural and cultural resources for future generations. Many people are now able to enjoy these natural areas under Departmental policies that promote compatible access and use.

In addition, the Department is engaging in new and innovative strategies and partnerships for the protection and use of natural areas:

- **Army:** *Soil conditions which change due to training, testing and natural weather conditions are restored and monitored by the Integrated Training Area Management system. Environmentally sensitive lands like erosive soils in the Southwest and flood prone coastal plain and piedmont soils and their native vegetation are protected while maintaining training.*
- **Navy:** *Restored a salmon fishery in Bangor Maine by reconstructing a 1940's culvert that prevented the fish from reaching their spawning grounds. Because of this design change currently over 1,000 salmon are using the culvert, reaching spawning grounds that have been inaccessible for 50 years.*
- **Air Force:** *Protecting nearly 60 rare species at the Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Working with the Nature Conservancy of Nevada, the Air Force monitors these species, which include three found only on Nellis Air Force Base lands.*
- **Marines:** *Protection of habitat for 18 endangered species at Camp Pendleton, California. The Corps is working with the Fish and Wildlife Service developing a process which protects sensitive riparian and upland areas.*

# *Energizing Habitat Conservation*

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The Clinton Administration is taking aggressive steps to convert properties formerly used for defense and weapons into alternative land uses, including wildlife conservation. The former Hanford Nuclear Reservation in eastern Washington contains the last free flowing section of the Columbia River, and is home to a naturally spawning population of salmon. Portions of the area are protected virtually as wilderness

with an abundance of wildlife, including elk, beaver, and antelope. Natural resources have been protected from development at Hanford, and other remote western lands owned by the Department of Energy, because of the Department's nuclear weapons and scientific research missions.

- *More than 200 square miles of land previously held as security buffer at the Hanford site were restored in an expedited cleanup effort.*
- *Twenty-one new species were identified on the Hanford site by scientists from The Nature Conservancy. More species identifications are expected.*
- *Ancient archeological remains are being preserved on Department of Energy lands in Idaho, Washington and Nevada, in cooperation with tribal governments.*
- *Native salmon runs within the Columbia River watershed are being restored in cooperation with tribal governments.*

# Partnering for Habitat Restoration



Habitat restoration on private lands complements our efforts to conserve habitat for fish and wildlife on public lands. Habitat restoration helps to counteract habitat loss occurring from continued human population growth and residential and commercial development. Through voluntary partnerships with private landowners, the Fish and Wildlife Service works to restore, conserve, and protect fish and wildlife habitats.

- Through the **National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program**, the Service provides matching grants to States and their partners for work on coastal

wetland habitats. Since 1992, over \$54 million have been awarded to 24 States and one territory. Over 63,000 acres of habitat have been conserved.

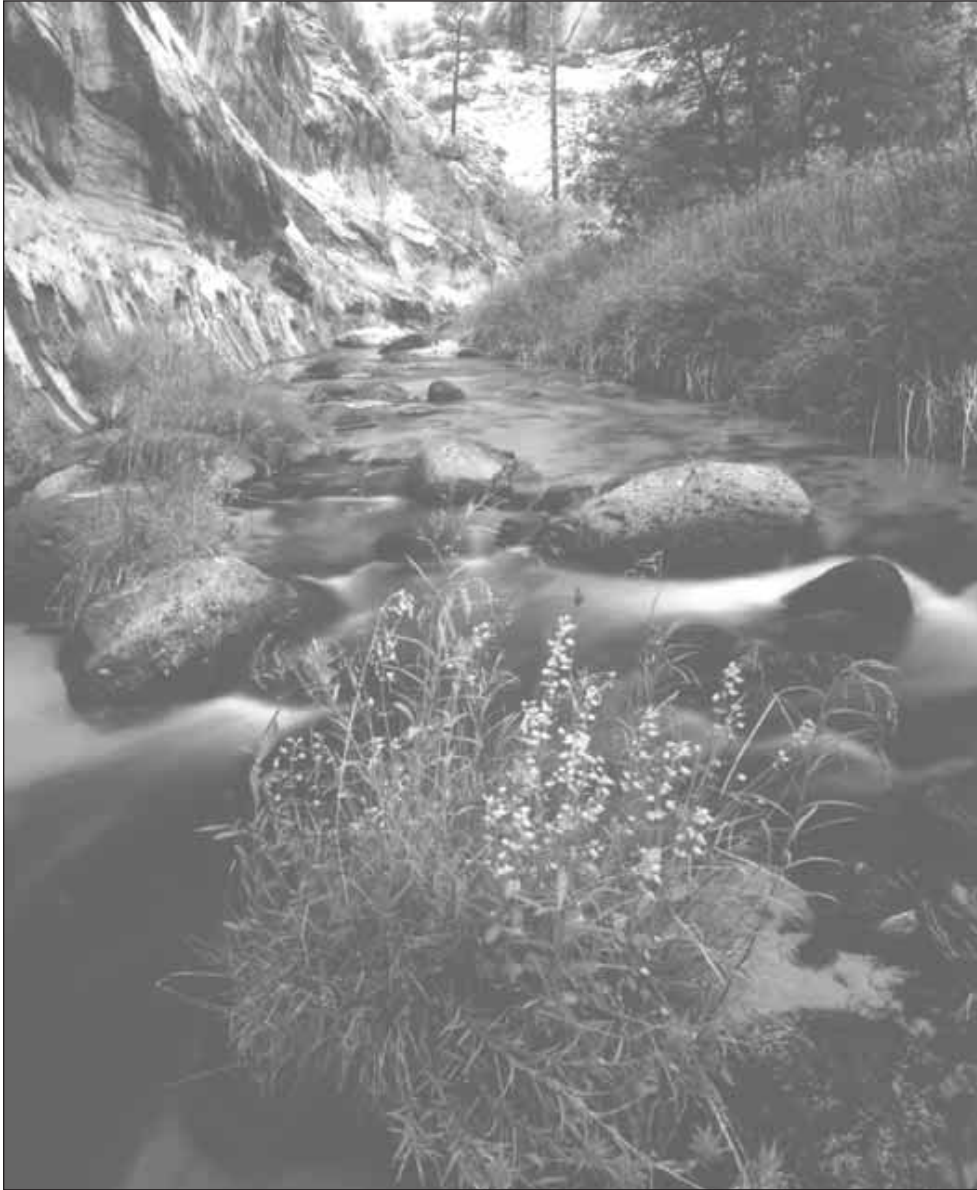
- The **Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program** directly involves private landowners in the voluntary stewardship of wetlands and other important habitats. In fiscal year 1997, the Service entered into 2,241 separate landowner agreements and restored 42,000 acres of wetlands, 60,600 acres of native prairie/grasslands, and 350 miles of riparian corridors and in-stream habitat for fish and wildlife.
- The **Coastal Program**, through partnerships with other Federal and State agencies and the private sector, implements solutions to habitat problems using a watershed/ecosystem approach in designated coastal areas. In fiscal year 1997, a total of 3,600 acres of coastal wetland habitats were restored; 8,200 acres of coastal upland habitats were restored; 29 miles of coastal riparian areas were restored; 488 miles of river were reopened to anadromous fish passage; and 22,800 acres of coastal habitats were protected through conservation easements and acquisitions.



# *Encouraging American Stewardship*

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*Photo by Jack Dykinga*



Common Sense Conservation  
Recognizing the Landowner as  
Conservationist  
Restoring America's Wildlife  
The 1996 Farm Bill

# Common Sense Conservation

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Common sense approaches to conservation have been put to work by the Clinton Administration, uniting diverse groups of people and producing powerful incentives that so far have fueled the protection of endangered species on nearly 5.8 million acres of private lands.

Deep within the species conservation toolbox, the Clinton Administration discovered and overhauled a seldom used but valuable tool — the Habitat Conservation Plan (or HCP). An HCP is a volunteer agreement between a landowner and the federal government on a plan to protect one or

more species. HCPs are adaptable to many situations ranging from a private home on a half acre lot to millions of acres of forest land. An HCP may protect a single species or dozens of different fish, plants and animals.

Different types of HCPs, like Safe Harbor agreements, are custom-tailored to give a landowner incentives to protect species without fear of additional land restrictions in the future. Although the Endangered Species Act had allowed HCPs since 1982, by 1993 only 14 were in place. Since President Clinton assumed office 225 HCPs have been approved covering 5.8 million acres. Another 200 are in development.

Examples are:

- ***The San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP)*** in southwestern San Diego County addresses multiple species habitat needs within the 171,900 acre preserve. The increased protections mitigate the impacts of continued urban development located immediately outside of the preserve boundaries. The HCP emphasizes the protection and management of habitats rather than focusing preservation efforts on one species at a time.
- ***Orange County HCP*** (208,000 acres) protects over 40 endangered or rare species in the coastal sage scrub ecosystem of southern California and supports fire management and recreation activities.
- ***The Pine Needles Lodges and Country Club Safe Harbor Agreement*** in North Carolina provides that some of the nation's premier golf courses will be managed to benefit the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.



# Recognizing the Landowner as Conservationist



Seventy percent of the United States, exclusive of Alaska, is held in private ownership. Nearly 50 percent cropland, pastures, and rangeland are owned by roughly 4.7 million farmers and ranchers. This means that the care of 50 percent of the United States is in the hands of less than 2 percent of our citizens.

Franklin Roosevelt and the conservation pioneers of the 1930's put in place a remarkable Federal, state, and local governmental partnership to help farmers and ranchers care for their lands. That partnership, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, county conservation districts, and state conservation agencies remains a model for public/private partnerships today. The Fish and Wildlife services Partners for

Wildlife Program joins thousands of landowners with the federal government to protect migrating waterfowl and other wildlife. Agriculture's Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Enhancements Program bring federal and state governments together in innovative partnerships.

These programs are very popular with landowners; there consistently has been a waiting list of more than 2,000 landowners for the Partners for Wildlife program of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Farmers have offered more than 5 times as many acres for wetland restoration under Agriculture's Wetlands Reserve Program than can be accommodated by current funds.

Since 1993, the Clinton Administration has renewed the commitment made to private landowners 60 years ago and working through that conservation partnership, is meeting new and more complex challenges. Working with landowners on a voluntary basis, the Clinton Administration has:

- *Assisted over one million individual farmers and ranchers to improve soil, protect water quality, and restore wildlife habitat on more than 62 million acres of land each year.*
- *Helped over 1,000 communities repair the damage caused by flooding and other natural disasters.*
- *Reduced soil erosion on privately owned croplands by 10 percent, saving over 230 million tons of soil each year.*
- *Enrolled over 550,000 acres of critical wetland and associated habitat through the Wetlands Reserve Program.*
- *Restored 595,000 acres of wetlands and 128,000 acres of prairie grasslands on private lands under voluntary agreements.*
- *956 miles of riparian habitats and 100 miles of instream aquatic habitats were restored.*
- *Funded 129 wetlands conservation projects supported by 430 partners in 41 states under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.*
- *Enrolled 23 million acres of fragile croplands in the Conservation Reserve Program to restore grasslands, wetlands and forests.*
- *Created 150,000 miles of conservation buffers to restore riparian areas, improve water quality, and cut erosion.*

# Restoring America's Wildlife

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The American bald eagle, the national symbol that virtually disappeared from the continental United States 25 years ago, is back from the brink of extinction. On July 12, 1995 with the release of a rehabilitated eagle named "Hope," the Clinton Administration reclassified the eagle from endangered to threatened in all of the lower 48 States. Bald eagles are not the only species on the road to recovery. Gray whales, Aleutian Canadian geese, greenback cutthroat trout and California condors are just a few of the 1134 species benefiting from the protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In its October 30, 1995 report to Congress on the recovery of endangered species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service showed

that extinction has been prevented for all but seven of the 909 species designated as endangered or threatened since the ESA was passed in 1973. In 1996, the Administration restarted the ESA listing program that had been placed under moratorium by Congress. Due to these efforts, 177 species have been offered the protections provided by the Act since the moratorium was lifted in 1996. Specific administration accomplishments are:

- *Reintroduced gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho in 1995 and 1996. The initial release of sixty six wolves has since led to the healthy re-establishment of 160 wolves and several new packs. The releases have been so successful that no new releases will be necessary. In a more recent reintroduction effort, 11 Mexican gray wolves were released in March 1998. They now roam the Gila and Apache National Forests in Arizona and New Mexico and the pack is on its way towards recovery.*
- *Released six California condors in December 1996 in northern Arizona after an absence of 72 years. The huge birds nearly became extinct during the 1980s and have been restored through captive breeding in zoos and releases to their former range in California and Arizona. Another 14 condors will be ready for release in 1998.*
- *Reintroduced populations of the blackfooted ferret, once thought to be extinct which are now reproducing in the wild. In 1996, biologists discovered seven litters in Montana and South Dakota, the first confirmation that reintroduced ferrets have become grandparents.*
- *Dramatically restored American peregrine falcon populations nationwide. The falcon had disappeared from the eastern United States by the mid-1960s and was endangered throughout its range. More than 3,400 young falcons have been released through nationwide recovery efforts over the years. There are now at least 1,184 currently in the wild.*

# *The 1996 Farm Bill . . .*

## *A Commitment to Conservation*

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Through their care and stewardship of the land, farmers and ranchers protect safe drinking water, clear-flowing streams, lakes full of fish, skies full of ducks and geese, and scenic landscapes. Each owner's actions are important, not just because they affect their land and way of life, but also because they affect neighboring land and the health of the larger ecosystems and watershed.

The 1996 farm bill, signed by President Clinton on April 4, 1996, is an unprecedented commitment to partnerships with farmers and ranchers to care for the nation's soil, water, and wildlife legacy. The bill contains a number of new provisions, strongly supported by

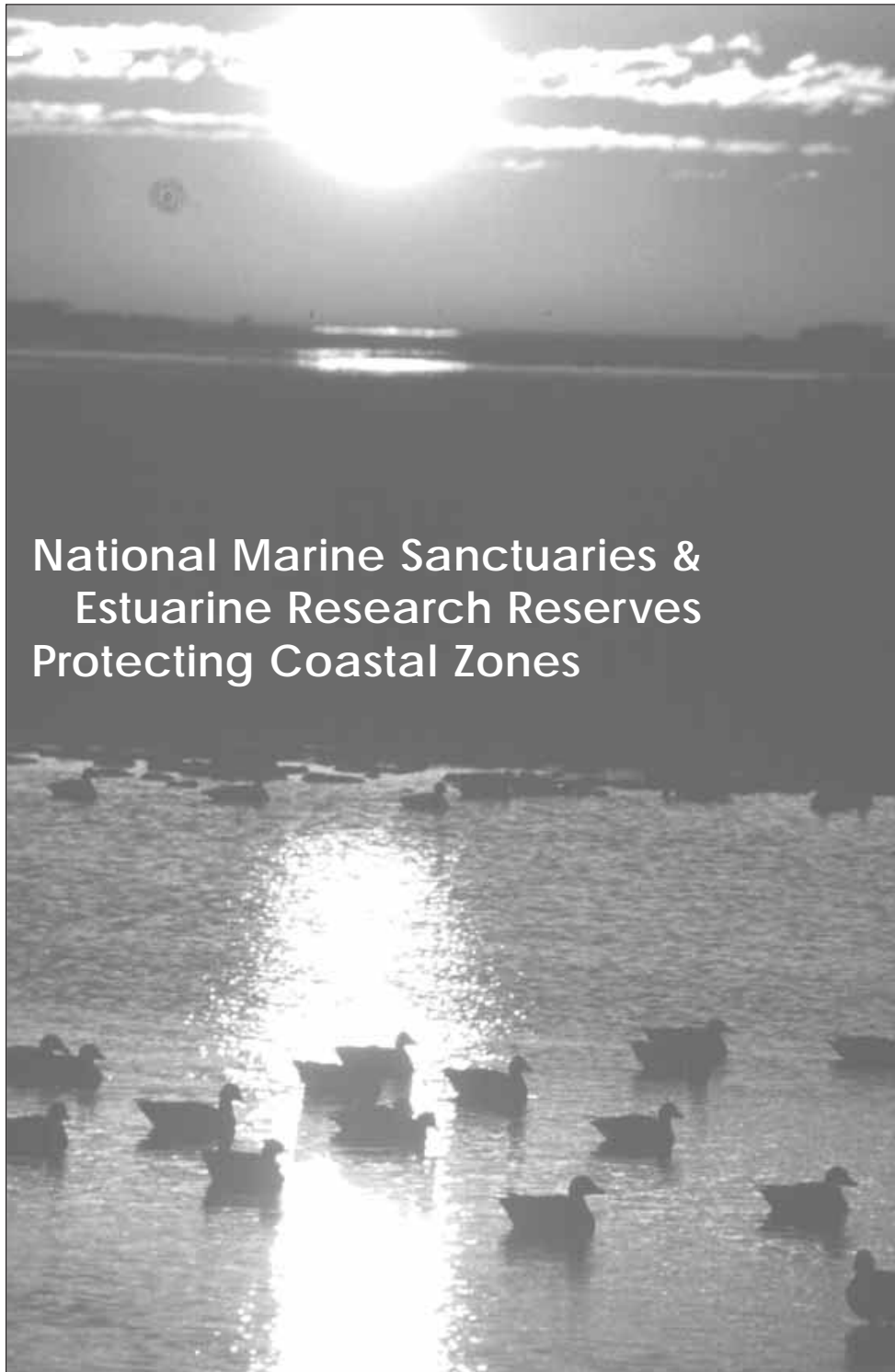
the President, that strengthen the conservation partnership between the federal government and landowners.

### The 1996 Farm Bill:

- *Extended the Conservation Reserve Program, protecting more than 36 million acres of fragile croplands and wildlife habitat.*
- *Created the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to assist farmers and ranchers to conserve soil, protect water quality, and restore wildlife habitat.*
- *Initiated the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program to encourage farmers and ranchers to create wildlife habitat on their lands.*
- *Authorized a Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative to help livestock producers care for 642 million acres of private grazing lands.*
- *Established a new program to protect prime and unique farmland threatened with conversion to urban development.*

# *Giving Sanctuary Where Land & Water Meet*

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# *National Marine Sanctuaries & Estuarine Research Reserves*

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Endangered humpback whales and migratory seabirds, coral reefs and mangrove islands, kelp forests and salt marshes are not the only benefactors of a marine sanctuary designation or estuarine research reserve. American citizens benefit through innovative education programs for children, cleaner coastal waters in which to swim or fish, and healthy coasts and oceans for future generations.

In 1994, the late Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown dedicated the 3.31-square mile Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary off Washington's rugged Olympic Peninsula. Home to rich natural and

cultural wonders, it greatly enhanced the conservation of our marine resources. In 1996, NOAA and the State of New Jersey dedicated the 114,047 acre Jacques Cousteau-Mullico River National Estuarine Research Reserve as one of the nation's most significant coastal estuaries. The Clinton Administration also took the following actions:

- *Addition of the .75-square mile Stetson Bank located near the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico. These are underwater gardens renowned among scuba divers.*
- *Designation of 8,600 acres of tidal wetlands near Dover Delaware as the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve.*
- *Acquisition of an additional 47 acres — a pristine barrier island — to the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve.*
- *Acquisition of an additional 2,767 acres of the ACE Basin National Estuarine Reserve, South Carolina.*
- *Nomination of two new Estuarine Research Reserves in Alaska and Mississippi.*



# Protecting Coastal Zones

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The Clinton Administration announced in December 1996 that 3,359 miles and 8.9 million acres of the Texas shoreline would be the first addition to the Federally approved state Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program in ten years. The Texas CZM will focus on reducing effects of shoreline erosion, planning for dredging and dredged material disposal, increasing waterfront revitalization and improved public access to barrier beaches. The program will also protect 1.5 million acres of coastal wetlands and grassbeds and 367 miles of barrier islands.

In the last two years Texas, Ohio, and Georgia have entered the Coastal Management Program approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As a result, over 97 percent of the United States' 95,000 miles of shoreline are managed in a way that seeks to balance preservation of the coastal environment with recreation and other uses.

- *The coastal zone represents 11 percent of our land and supports the production of 70 percent of the U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries harvest.*
- *The coasts face serious threats from erosion, wetlands loss, limited public access and runoff pollution. Loss of life and property from coastal storms is also a serious concern being address by coastal management programs.*
- *Healthy coastal environments support tourism, recreation and fishing industries that generate over \$100 billion in economic activity every year.*